

## Marianne (Hessentahler) Ellison, 97

Marianne (Hessentahler) Ellison of Duxbury passed away peacefully at her home with family present on May 6. She was 97 years old and the wife of the late William P. Ellison. Marianne was born and raised in Chillicothe, OH and came to Massachusetts to attend Wheaton College from which she graduated in 1940. At Wheaton, she was a class president and, according to her college yearbook, "trod a path lined with honors, offices, and accomplishments." She was also on the varsity riding team and active with the school dance group. After graduation from Wheaton, she taught school at Rivers and Dedham Country Day, was married in 1942 and raised her family in Lexington, MA. After her first marriage ended in divorce, she married William P. Ellison in 1968 and moved to Duxbury. Mr. Ellison died in a tragic house fire in 1988.



Throughout her years in Duxbury, Mrs. Ellison was an inspiration to all for the way she lived her life and for her contributions to the community. She was a lover of books, interested in fiction, religion, politics and history, a passionate birder, an avid bridge player (up until her death she had two bridge groups both in Florida and in Duxbury) and a sportswoman (golf, tennis, skiing, skeet shooting and equestrian). She remained actively involved with Wheaton College as a member of the President's Commission, class president, and class officer. She also served as a member of the Reunion Program Committee, on the National Major Gift Committee and assisted with planning as part of the Sesquicentennial National Advisory Committee. Through her involvement, and that of the Ellison Foundation, Wheaton created three named spaces on campus: the Ellison Lecture Hall (Watson), the Ellison Dance Studio (Balfour Hood), and the Ellison Teaching and Conference Suite (Haas Athletic Center).

Mrs. Ellison was a founding member of Manomet Center For Conservation Sciences in 1969 and remained an active and generous supporter of the organization throughout the rest of her life. She served on the board for thirty years (1974-2004) and was an honorary trustee up until her death. She was a long-time bird banding volunteer, and, in earlier years, was active in Manomet's land bird education program. She also participated in Manomet's annual Bird-athon well into her 90s. Mrs. Ellison was also a longtime trustee of the Mass. Eye and Ear, and continued the Ellison family's tradition of support, through the Ellison Foundation, of many community organizations and charities, including the Ellison Center for the Arts, the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, Crossroads For Kids, Mass. General Hospital, as well as other charities. She was a member of the Duxbury Yacht Club, the Duxbury Garden Club, the Chilton Club, the Country Club (Brookline); and in the Florida: the Anglers Club, the Ocean Reef Club and Card Sound Golf Club.

Mrs. Ellison is survived by three of her four children (a fourth, Harriot, predeceased her): Anne Tcherepnin of Falmouth; Carole Christopher of Macon, GA; and John F. (Jeff) Palmer (and his wife Kathy) of Duxbury, as well as eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345, in memory of Marianne Ellison. A memorial service will be held at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Duxbury on June 2, 2016, at 3 p.m.